

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended, and claims 4-6, 13 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-3, 7-12, 14, and 16-20 are pending and under consideration.

OBVIOUSNESS TYPE DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION:

On pages 2-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner provisionally rejects claims 1-20 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/806,320. In view of the enclosed Terminal Disclaimer, it is respectfully submitted that the provisional rejection be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

In the Office Action at pages 4-5, the Examiner rejects claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102 in view of Dekker (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0003762). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

While applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's characterization of Dekker, as claims 4-6 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is moot.

In the Office Action at pages 5-6, the Examiner rejects claims 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102 in view of Ohno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,150,351). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

While applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's characterization of Ohno et al., as claims 13 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is moot.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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